

Message Text

SECRET

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O P 301730Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9787

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USEUCOM PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORFY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T NICOSIA 2779

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CY PFOR

SUBJECT: CALL ON ACTING PRESIDENT

1. RWITH DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY BROWN, WHO WAS SAYING HIS GOODBYE'S, I CALLED ON ACTING PRESIDENT CLERIDES AFTERNOON AUGUST 30.

2. IN A GENERALIZED DISCUSSION OF DIFFICULTIES WHICH LIE AGEAD, CLERIDEYFGAVE US ON SIGNIFICANT BIT OF NEWS. SAID HE AHD RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL TODAY FROM KARAMANLIS WHO TOLD HIM HE COMPOSING LONG TELEGRAM TO CLERIDES ON WHICH HE WANTED LATTER'S COMMENTS NOT LATER THAT AUGUST 31. THE PORTENT OF CONVERSATION WAS THAT KARAMANLIS IS ABOUT TO DROP HIS INSISTENCE ON PRIOR MOVES BY TURKEY BEFORE SERIOUS NEGOTIATION CAN BEGIN. CLERIDES RECEIVED THIS AS A MOST WELCOME AND OVER DUE DEVELOPMENT. SAID HE WOULD HAVE DETAILS BY THE TIME I PRESENT CREDENTIALS MORNING AUGUST 31.

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CLERIDES ALSO REITERATED HIS VIEW ON URGENCY OF STARTING

NEGOTIATIONS. HE EXPECTED HE WOULD QUICKLY RUN OUT OF PURELY HUMANITARIAN ISSUES, INCLUDING EARLY REOPENING OF NICOSIA AIRPORT, WITH DENKTASH, AT THAT POINT, POSITIVE MOMENTUM INTO POLITICAL MATTERS WOULD BE A NECESSITY. HE WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT EVOLVING SITUATION ON GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WITH LOYAL FORCES AT GOVERNMENT DISPOSAL WOEFULLY WEAK AND UNARMED AND WITH THREE HEAVILY ARMED FORCES VIRTUALLY AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS: EOKA, MAKARIOS' SUPPORTERS, AND LYSSARIDES' ARCY ON LEFT. INTRA-GREEK CYPRIOT CONFLICT WOULD CRIPPLE HIS HAND IN NEGOTIATION AND SOLIDIFY TURKS IN THEIR INTRANSIGENCE. REFUGEE BITTERNESS MOUNTING SHARPLY. HE STRESSED ESSENTIALITY OF BEGINNING REFUGEE RETURN TO HOMES.
CRAWFORD

SECRET

NNN

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